

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions for the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

RECEIVED 413

JUL 25 1994

INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1. Name of Property

historic name Perry Farm

other names/site number Wake County, NC survey site #Wa 1941

2. Location

street & number S side SR 2320 Just E of SR 2300 ☒ Not for publication

city or town Riley Hill ☒ vicinity

state NC code 037 county Wake code 183 zip code 27591

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

William S. King, Jr.
Signature of certifying official/Title

7-18-94
Date

State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

☒ entered in the National Register.

☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the
National Register

☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register.

☐ removed from the National
Register.

☐ other, (explain): _____

for
Signature of the Keeper

Edson H. Beall

Entered in the
National Register

Date of Action

8-26-94

Perry Farm
Name of Property

Wake Co., NC
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
7	2	buildings
		sites
1		structures
		objects
8	2	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)
"Historic and Architectural Resources of
Wake County, North Carolina (1770-1941)"

**Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register**

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling
Domestic/secondary structure
Agriculture/agricultural outbuildg.

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling
Domestic/secondary structure
vacant/not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: transitional Georgian-Federal

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone and cinder block
walls Wood/weatherboard
synthetics/vinyl
roof shingles/asphalt
other log

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Ethnic Heritage/Black

Social History

Period of Significance

c. 1820-1944

Significant Dates

c. 1820

1914

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

10. Geographical DataAcreage of Property 10 acres**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	17	7	34	4	6	0	3	9	7	0	5	6	0
	Zone		Easting					Northing					
2	17	7	34	7	4	0	3	9	7	0	4	8	0

3	17	7	34	4	7	1	0	3	9	7	0	3	6	0
	Zone		Easting					Northing						
4	17	7	34	4	4	2	0	3	9	7	0	4	2	0

☐ See continuation sheet**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared Byname/title Patricia S. Dickinsonorganization consultant date June 1, 1994street & number 4606 Hunt Rd. telephone (919) 732-5439city or town Hillsborough state NC zip code 27278**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets**Maps**A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.**Photographs**Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Dr. Pennie E. Perrystreet & number 6308 Riley Hill Rd. telephone (919) 365-7823city or town Wendell state NC zip code 27591

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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RECEIVED 413 Perry Farm Wake Co., NC JUL 25 1994
INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION:

The Perry Farm is located on the south side of the old Tarboro stage road, now known as Riley Hill Road (SR 2320), just east of its intersection with Edgemont Road (SR 2300). The farm is in rural southeast Wake County near the small piedmont North Carolina town of Wendell. The present ten-acre farm was originally a part of 496 acres purchased in 1835 by John Perry. That acreage was a part of the approximately 1,500 acres Perry acquired in the area between 1802 and 1840. In 1914 Guyon Perry, son of Feggins Perry a former slave on the Perry farm, purchased the house and fifty-three acres of the farm's original acreage. After his death in 1956, the acreage was divided among his surviving children. This ten-acre tract, inherited by his youngest daughter, contains eight contributing (C) resources and two non-contributing (NC) resources.

The c. 1820 Perry House, centerpiece of the farm, is shaded by several large evergreen and deciduous trees, including oaks and maples and a large old, partially hollow holly tree. The house is surrounded by a variety of evergreen and deciduous shrubs and a variety of bulbs, perennial and annual flowers. There are also remnants of an extensive fruit orchard which once included pear, apple, peach and plum trees. Small grape arbors survive in the northwest corner of the front yard near the road and in the southeast corner of the rear yard. Flat grassy fields, which were once planted in tobacco and cotton, extend to the east and south of the house tract, and modest brick ranch houses line the road opposite the house.

Eight contributing (C), and two non-contributing (NC), resources are located on the nominated ten-acre tract. (See the attached site sketch.) The contributing elements include the c. 1820 Perry House, a north-facing, two-story, frame, transitional Georgian-Federal style house with a one-story rear wing formed from a mid-nineteenth century (originally) detached kitchen now attached to the rear of the house by an enclosed breezeway; and a cluster of assorted antebellum, and post-bellum outbuildings and a structure arranged at the sides and rear (the east, south and west) of the main house.

Contributing outbuildings and structure include a typical collection of support buildings and structures necessary for the operation of a cotton and tobacco plantation. This collection, which appears to date from the mid to late-nineteenth century, and two early-twentieth century buildings, includes

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the following: a one-story, gable-front, frame smokehouse with a small shed-roof side addition; a rare, double-crib, log barn; a two-story, gable-roof, frame livestock barn; a one-and-one-half story, gable-roof corn crib with a shed-roof side addition; an early-twentieth century plywood-sided, gable-roofed automobile garage; a cinder block, gable-roof tobacco storage building; and a structure, an open, gable roof supported by piers, which shelters the brick well.

The two non-contributing resources are a late-twentieth century gambrel-roof frame utility building and a c. 1960 frame tobacco barn with attached shed-roof open shelters. One of the plantation's once numerous log tobacco barns survived until recently in a field just south, almost within sight, of the plantation house (not on the nominated tract). The log portion burned, but an attached shelter survives. A number of other tobacco barns do not survive, nor does a frame dairy building formerly located near present well house; the dairy collapsed in the 1970s and was replaced by the gambrel-roof utility building. The farm complex of main house and outbuildings is visually unified by painted white wall surfaces and dark green metal roofs.

Inventory List:1. Perry House. c. 1820. Contributing

The c. 1820 Perry House faces north and rests on a foundation made up of the original fieldstone piers, infilled in the twentieth century with cinder blocks. It is a tall, narrow, two-story, single-pile frame transitional Georgian-Federal style farm house with a hall-and-parlor plan. The house is three asymmetrical bays wide and one bay deep, with a rear one-story shed-roof addition. Attached to the shed addition is a rear wing composed of a mid-nineteenth century kitchen moved from the rear yard c. 1900 and joined to the main house by a waist-high open balustraded breezeway; the breezeway was filled in c. 1930 by boards and awning windows. In 1990 a vinyl-clad, one-story, T-shaped, side-gable roof wing with a shallow recessed front porch and a substantial rear deck built of pressure-treated lumber was added to the east end of the house. The windows on this wing are one-over-one sash.

The main block of the Perry House is bracketed on the east and west sides by tall, stuccoed, brick, single-shoulder chimneys with paved shoulders. There are no windows on the east and west (side) elevations. The original (now attached) kitchen building

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has a large exterior end chimney with a cut stone base and brick stack on its south (rear) elevation. A full-width one-story hip-roof front porch with a replacement concrete floor and replacement round wood posts extends across the main elevation of the Perry House (date uncertain, probably early-twentieth century.)

Although vinyl siding was applied to the exterior of the house, breezeway and original kitchen building in recent years, much of the original molded weatherboard remains visible on the main elevation under the porch. The vinyl siding was carefully applied so that the original molded weatherboards beneath survive intact. Also surviving intact are the returns on the steep, standing-seam metal-clad gable roof, and the timber-framed windows with robust carved window sills with three-part casings surrounding the nine-over-six sash; the early (perhaps some original) glass is protected and shaded by louvered wooden shutters.

On the interior, the Perry House is remarkably unaltered. The main block of the house displays a hall-and-parlor plan, with two substantial, high-ceilinged rooms on the first floor, and two rooms on the second floor. Access to the two upstairs bedrooms is provided by an enclosed corner staircase located in the southwest corner of the original hall (now the formal living room). The walls of the staircase are sheathed with wide, flush boards. Other significant interior features of the main block include six-panel doors with robust three-part surrounds; a wide, paneled double door on the rear wall of the hall (living room); vernacular Federal-style three-part mantelpieces in the first floor rooms, ornamented with fluted pilasters in the hall, and raised panels underscored by a row of dentils in the parlor (now used as a bedroom); simpler, flush-panel fireplace surrounds on the second floor; flush-paneled wainscot topped by chair rails on both the first and second floors; and original decorative wood graining on one of the second story bedroom doors. The wall and ceiling surfaces on the first floor are painted (white) plaster on wood lath; the second story has plaster walls and narrow, beaded-board ceilings.

The interior of the rear one-story shed-roof addition, accessible from either of the first-story rooms, contains a dining room, bedroom and bath. It also has plastered walls and ceiling. The bright and airy enclosed breezeway, finished on the interior with boards, serves as a rear entrance to the house and contains a glass-topped dining table and chairs.

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Entrance to the original kitchen building is made from the breezeway through an original plank-and-batten door.

The one-room kitchen block is also largely unaltered, particularly on the interior. The exterior walls are now clad with vinyl and a porch on the west wall was screened early in the twentieth century (screen replaced at least twice since then), but the building retains many original features including the original batten doors on the north, east and west walls, early beaded-board ceiling, plain board fireplace surround, four-over-four sash windows, and old (perhaps original) rim locks and porcelain door knobs. The fireplace hearth (on the south wall) is formed from two large boulders which are now covered by a modern stove insert in the firebox. The original kitchen still functions and is used occasionally for canning and other large cooking projects occasioned by family reunions and parties.

The interior of the 1990 east wing, contains an open bed/sitting room, and modern kitchen facilities. A bathroom is located on the south (rear) wall. The interior finish is sheetrock.

2. Smokehouse. c. 1850. Contributing. West-facing small, gable-front, metal-roofed, one-story, windowless, frame outbuilding with a small, shed-roof addition at the south side. Retains original board-and-batten main entrance, and a plank door in the addition. Now used for miscellaneous storage.

3. Utility Building. c. 1980. Non-contributing. North-facing, gambrel-roof, plywood-sided storage building with double doors and asphalt shingle-covered roof. Used to store gardening tools and machines.

4. Well House. c. 1900. Contributing. North-facing, open gable-roof structure, supported by square timbers, covering the well head which is further protected by a brick enclosure set on a concrete pad.

5. Livestock Barn. c. 1870. Contributing. Two-story, north-facing, gable-front, metal-roofed, frame barn with shed roof side additions. Two doors, one above the other centered on the main elevation and a third door at first story level in the side addition. Two other doors on the east elevation open into the other side addition. Served as livestock barn for cows and horses, as a feed barn and for tobacco storage.

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6. Log Barn. c. 1850 Contributing. East-facing, one-story, double-crib log barn constructed of saddle-notched logs which were partially covered with plywood early in the twentieth century. Wide doors open into each crib. Barn has been used for sheltering mules, tools, farm equipment, buggy and wagons.

7. Corn Crib. c. 1850. Contributing. One-and-one-half story frame corn crib with metal gable roof and shed-roof side addition with board-and-batten doors. Has been used also as a harness room, with hay stored above, and for cotton storage.

8. Garage. c. 1920. Contributing. One-story, east-facing, gable-front, plywood-sheathed, frame automobile garage.

9. Storage Building. c. 1920. Contributing. One-story, east-facing, gable-front, cinder block building used for storage; also contains a pit used for tobacco grading.

10. Frame Tobacco Barn. c. 1960. Non-contributing. One-story frame barn with shed-roof open shelters on west and south sides.

Integrity Assessment:

The Perry Farm displays most of the important aspects of integrity which define a property's significance. These are: location, design, setting, workmanship, feeling and association. The Perry House retains its c. 1820 plan (integrity of design). It also retains an unusually high number of significant original interior decorative details, representing the aspect of workmanship in its vernacular interpretation of period construction methods and ornamental detailing. The rear, kitchen wing retains its mid-nineteenth century plan and details such as the plank-and-batten doors and four-over-four windows. The originally detached kitchen was attached to the rear of the main house c. 1900 and the resulting breezeway was enclosed c. 1930, both occurring within the period of significance. Four contributing outbuildings dating from c. 1830 to 1870 remain largely unchanged and, in conjunction with the Perry House, display the aspects of location, setting, feeling and association. The other contributing outbuildings, the c. 1900 well house and the c. 1920 garage and adjacent storage building were built within the period of significance.

Probably the most significant change to the Perry House, a change in the material, has been the 1990 application of vinyl siding to most of the exterior of the main block, the kitchen

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wing and the breezeway connecting them. However, the substitute siding was not applied to the area protected by the front porch, leaving visible the original molded weatherboards. The original weatherboards survive intact beneath the vinyl. The original robust, three-part carved window surrounds are intact, not hidden or destroyed by the application of the vinyl siding. Construction of the 1990 east wing destroyed none of the house's original fabric and its small scale does not detract from the feeling of the original house. The deck which extends at the rear of the addition is not readily visible from either of the roads from which the farm complex can be viewed.

The current owner of the property is keenly aware of the property's association, its direct link between the historic events and people associated with the historic property and has sought to preserve the property and to maintain those links, while providing herself with modern comforts, convenience and ease of maintenance. Thus, the setting and core buildings of the farm are maintained by her careful stewardship of the historic property.

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Wake Co., NCSection number 8 Page 7Summary Statement of Significance:

The Perry Farm is significant for its architecture, and for the African-American ethnic heritage and social history it represents. It is a largely intact antebellum farmstead and is one of the best representative examples of the few such surviving properties in Wake County, North Carolina. The farmstead includes a well-preserved c. 1820 transitional Georgian-Federal style two-story, frame, farm house (C) and seven contributing, and two non-contributing, farm outbuildings that were essential elements of the nineteenth and early twentieth century cotton and tobacco farm. The Perry Farm is particularly significant in the area of local African-American social history. Like many former slaves after emancipation, Feggins Perry became a tenant farmer on the land of which he was once bound. Owned by white members of the Perry family for most of the nineteenth century, in 1914 the property was acquired by Feggins Perry's son, Guyon Perry, and it remains in that family to the present. Guyon Perry represents an example of the rise of African-American farmer in twentieth century Wake County. Guyon Perry and wife, Eliza, were prominent members of the Riley Hill Community, holding leadership positions in the Riley Hill Baptist Church and other Baptist-based local community organizations. Their involvement with the church and local schools reflect the importance of school, church and community in late nineteenth and early twentieth century African-American life and social history. The Perry House and its antebellum dependencies have been owned for eighty years by the Perry family whose progenitors were slaves on the property before emancipation.

Fully developed historical and architectural contexts for Wake County are found in the Multiple Property Listing: Historic and Architectural Resources of Wake County, North Carolina (c. 1770-1941) written by Kelly Lally, Preservation Planner for the Wake County Planning Department, and Todd Johnson, Consultant. This National Register document was an outgrowth of a county-wide architectural survey conducted in 1991-1992 under the auspices of the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (survey files, photographs and maps are located at the Survey and Planning Branch, Raleigh). Applicable contexts include: Context 3, Populism to Progressivism (1885-1918), Black Farmowners, and Religion [see Section E, p. 57 and p. 61] and Context 4: Boom, Bust and Recovery Between World Wars (1919-1941), Wake Churches Benefit

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from Postwar Economic Growth [Section E, p. 73]. Applicable Property Types Include Type 1: Farm Complexes [Section F, pp. 105-111] and Property Type 3: Houses [Section F, pp. 125-131]. The Perry Farm is particularly significant because it has been owned for over seventy-five years by a prominent black family whose progenitors were slaves on the same property before emancipation. It is also notable because, although the main dwelling house has been somewhat altered over the years, the farmstead retains a significant number of related agricultural dependencies, dating from the antebellum era and later which survive in good condition. The ensemble of buildings is an unusually complete and representative example of the type which formed the domestic core of a farm which spans from the Colonial period through the 1940s. While this complex once served an agricultural purpose, the Perry farm is being nominated for architecture, for ethnic heritage and social history.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND: The Perry House and outbuildings are located on a portion of the 496-acre tract in southeastern Wake County which John Perry purchased from Matthew Strickland on January 31, 1835 for \$1,489.¹ This acreage is one of at least nine southeastern Wake County tracts (totaling approximately 1,040 acres) Perry purchased between 1802 and 1840.² It is not known if this transitional Georgian-Federal style house was already standing at the time of the Strickland-Perry transaction.

John Perry was a native of Franklin County which borders Wake County at the north. In 1805 he married Nancy Baker.³ By 1809 he had constructed a still extant house on eighty-one acres on Hominy Branch (sometimes noted as "Homony Swamp") of the Little River. Perry apparently moved his household to the former Strickland property he had purchased in 1835, and rented his former residence and farm to Elisha Sandeford who is later mentioned in Perry's will⁴ as "a tenant" entitled to one half of the crops he produced.

In the 1850 Wake County Population Census schedule, John Perry, age seventy, was listed as a "farmer" with real estate valued at \$3,500. He owned twelve slaves (nine males, including the eighteen-year-old Fagen or "Feggins" as it is variously spelled, and three females.) He had five sons and three daughters (and at least one granddaughter according to his 1852 will). His wife Nancy was sixty-five years old then and his

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eighteen-year-old son, Fabius, is also listed as a "farmer."⁵ The 1850 Agricultural Census records that John Perry's farm encompassed 200 improved acres and 1300 unimproved acres. The land was valued at \$1000 and the farming equipment at \$125. His livestock, valued at \$1085, included eight milch cows; four oxen and twenty-nine "other" cattle; 205 sheep; and 140 swine. The productive acreage accounted for ninety-six bushels of wheat, 1,300 bushels of corn, and 360 bushels of oats. He grew enough cotton to produce twelve bales, and the sheep produced forty pounds of wool. Food crops included eighty bushels of peas and beans, and 500 bushels of sweet potatoes. He fed his livestock with ten tons of hay. The cows produced 150 pounds of butter.

John Perry died in May, 1852. He left a lengthy, detailed will, written on March 26 of that year. He acknowledged that he was of "feeble health, but of sound mind and memory." Much of the will concerns the disposition of his slaves and it appears that he divided them and his various land tracts equitably among his children and his wife. He left the family dwelling and surrounding acreage (approximately 475 acres) to his son Fabius H. Perry after the death of his wife Nancy. While the 1850 Census records that he owned twelve slaves (ranging in age from twelve to seventy years) his will shows that he had previously given at least five other slaves to several of his children. The Perry children included sons Calvin (deceased by 1852), Wesley, Allen R., Robert S., and Fabius H. (spelled "Thadeus" by the lawyer/clerk who drew up the will), each of whom received land and one slave from their father; and daughters Rutha Young, Emily Upchurch, and Cynthia Horton, who each received a slave and Burline Clifton, who received \$400 in lieu of a slave. Slaves named in the will included Ellen, Henderson, Clary, Ransom, Laura, Coleman, Fagan or "Feggins" as it is more commonly spelled, Dick, Silas, Guion, Jane, Anna, Lettice, Mike, and Cherry (the latter two apparently husband and wife, since Perry willed that they should be sold together).

When the 1860 Census was compiled, Nancy Perry was listed as the head of her household, with son Fabius, age 27 living with her, and six slaves--three young adults and three small children--living in three slave houses. Nancy's real estate was valued at \$700 and her personal property at \$7,200. Fabius' real estate was valued at \$2,000 and his personal property, at \$2,200. The other slaves John Perry had owned had been bequeathed to his other children by his 1852 Will.

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Fabius H. Perry is listed on the 1860 Agricultural Schedule as the "owner, agent or manager of farm." He is listed as owning 175 improved acres, and 300 unimproved acres. On the eve of the Civil War, the cash value of the farm was \$2,900. His \$900 worth of livestock included six horses; five mules; five milch cows which produced 200 pounds of butter; two oxen and thirteen "other" cattle; fifteen sheep which produced twenty pounds of wool; and forty-eight swine. The farm acreage produced ninety bushels of wheat, 1,100 bushels of Indian corn, and 200 bushels of sweet potatoes. He harvested thirteen tons of hay for the animals.

In 1864 Fabius married Indiana (or "Indianna") Hood, daughter of William H. Hood, who lived at the nearby Hood-Anderson farm. His mother, Nancy, bought two lots in Rolesville that year and perhaps moved there. An appraisal of Fabius Perry's real estate and personal property recorded on April 24, 1869 (perhaps after the death of his mother?) provides a partial picture of life on the farm in the lean post-War years. The value of 426 acres, buildings and dwelling was \$953. Two bay horses (one, twenty years old valued at thirty dollars, and the other, valued at seventy-five dollars) remained on the farm. Three thousand pounds of fodder was valued at thirty dollars and 150 bushels of corn, at five dollars. Two hundred pounds of bacon were valued at forty dollars, and two sows and thirteen shoats were valued at forty-one dollars. Farming tools were worth ten dollars and one ox cart, five dollars. Household goods included one bed and furniture valued at seventeen dollars and fifty cents; one "falling table" was worth five dollars; a half dozen chairs, one dollar and fifty cents; six dollars worth of crockery; and one pair of looking glasses at four dollars. One buggy and harness were appraised at two dollars; one cow, at twelve dollars; and seventy-one bushels of corn were worth one dollar per bushel. The appraisal of personal property "exempt from sale" totaled \$500.¹⁰

In the 1870 Population Census, Fab(ius), age thirty-eight, and India(nna), age twenty-four, are listed along with their four young children who ranged in age from one to eight years. The economic devastation of War is reflected in the real estate value which had fallen to \$800 with personal property valued at \$250. They had one "domestic servant" named Millie Avery, age fourteen, and one farm laborer Robert Jones, age twenty-three. Thirty acres on the farm were listed as "improved," 150 unimproved, and another forty acres "other" (perhaps woodlands?) unimproved. The farm was valued at \$300. The

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numbers of livestock had declined greatly from the pre-War totals: the census taker recorded that Fabius Perry then owned two horses; one mule; two milk cows which produced only twenty-five pounds of butter; two oxen and ten swine. That year the farm produced 150 bushels of corn; thirty bushels of oats; nine bales of cotton; and twenty-five bushels of Irish potatoes. The estimated value of the farm's production was \$1,000.¹

Fabius and Indianna Perry's fortunes continued to decline. By the time the 1880 Agricultural Census was taken, they had moved away from the family farm and were living on a small farm they owned in the Wake Forest (North Carolina) Township.² That year Feggins Perry, a former slave on the plantation, rented the farm "for a share of the products." This is the same Feggins Perry who had been bequeathed to Robert Perry by his father, John, in his 1852 will. According to family tradition and records in the family Bible, Feggins Perry was born on February 2, 1832 into slavery. He was an industrious man. After working all day in the fields, at night he made barrels which he was allowed to sell, keeping one third of the money and giving two thirds to his master. Feggins and his brother Dorsey earned the purchase money by making baskets at night and after slavery used their savings to accumulate some farm land along Riley Hill Road. In 1860 he married Elizabeth (Betsy) Wall from Neuse, North Carolina. Nine children were born to this union. According to the 1880 Agricultural Census Schedule, Feggins Perry and one black farm worker (who was paid \$100 for a year's work) farmed a total of seventy acres with one horse, one mule and one ox. Livestock, valued at \$200, on his rented farm included three cows and two calves; eight swine; and eight chickens which produced twelve dozen eggs. Fourteen acres planted in wheat produced forty-eight bushels. Twenty acres where planted in cotton, producing thirteen bales. Six bushels of cow peas were grown. Seventy-five bushels of sweet potatoes were grown on one acre, and one-quarter acre was planted in Irish potatoes, yielding two bushels. The estimated value of all the farm products was \$1,125 in 1880.³

In 1881 Fabius and Indianna Parry were unable to satisfy a mortgage that R.S. Pullen held on the farm, and so it was sold to J(ames) F. Underhill for \$860.⁴ The 1900 Wake County Population Census indicate that Underhill and the Feggins and Guyon Perry families lived near each other since they are numbered and listed consecutively. Feggins (spelled "Fagan" here) was listed as a widower. Feggins and his brother Dorsey

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bought a two-hundred-acre tract of land located about a mile east of Riley Hill Church and divided the land. All of their children attended schools in the community. "Feggins was civic minded and insisted on being allowed to vote once he was freed from slavery. He might not have fully understood why he wanted to register, but the story that has been handed down through generations, tells us that being large of stature and persistently positive about registering to vote, the registrar at the polls granted his request and was quite surprised to learn that this ex-slave could indeed read and write."¹⁵

Guyon Perry, son of Feggins and Elizabeth Perry was born on November 19, 1873. He married Eliza Jones in 1897. Eliza's father, Wesley Jones, Sr., had also been a slave who worked independently in his free time and kept part of the money he earned from his trade. Feggins Perry and Wesley Jones, Sr. were among the first black families to own their own land after slavery, "land which they purchased by working hard, being thrifty and saving."¹⁶

In 1914 Guyon Perry purchased the Perry plantation house and the surrounding fifty-three acre "Underhill" tract for \$2,200.¹⁷ By the time the 1925 tax list for Little River Township was compiled, Guyon Perry owned four tracts of land including the former Underhill tract. These additional tracts included the thirty-three-acre "Wesley Jones" land valued at \$1,000; the forty-two-acre "Ferrell Place" valued at \$2,500; and a fourteen-acre parcel, the "Feggins Perry" land valued at \$500. The aggregate value of this real estate was \$7,500.¹⁸

Guyon Perry and his wife, Eliza, were prominent members of the Riley Hill Community. In addition to rearing and educating their seven children, both held leadership positions in Riley Hill Baptist Church. Guyon Perry is prominently mentioned in the 1940 publication Who's Who Among North Carolina Negro Baptists. In addition to his active work at Riley Hill Baptist Church and Sunday School, he is cited as "a progressive farmer and has made good." At Riley Hill Baptist Church he had "served as clerk for quite sometime; also chairman of the deacon board."¹⁹ Among his other achievements, he was treasurer of the Wake County Sunday School Convention and the Ministers and Deacons Union. "In nearly all organizations for the religious and civic growth of citizens in Wake County, Mr. Perry can be found."²⁰

Guyon Perry's daughter, Dr. Pennie E. Perry, current owner and resident at the Perry Farm, wrote that her father "saw the need of education and received as much as was available to him.

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He served as superintendent of Riley Hill Baptist Church for thirty-five years and under his administration the Sunday School was considered the leading rural Sunday school in the state."²¹ He served his church as a deacon, chairman of the Deacon Board, clerk of the Church and the chairman of many committees. It was during his tenure that the present brick church was constructed. He worked with the Wake Baptist Association where he chaired many committees and represented Riley Hill Church, the Sunday School Convention and the Ministers and Deacons Union."²² In addition to his extensive church-related activities, he was a member of the Odd Fellows Lodge, one of the largest fraternal and benevolent orders in the United States. Guyon Perry was also an active participant in creating educational opportunities for the young people of the community, personally funding scholarships. He also chaired the Advisory School Committee for many years. He recruited community members to excavate a basement at the Riley Hill School where a central heating system was installed."²³

Mr. and Mrs. Perry both realized the importance of a good education and enrolled their children at boarding schools "because for a long time the community offered nothing beyond elementary school."²⁴ Eliza Perry worked diligently at her husband's side, serving as Treasurer of the Sunday School, was a member of the Household of Ruth Lodge, and participated in the Home Demonstration Club. Known for her deserts, most dinner meals were shared with neighborhood children. In addition to her own seven children, she also reared a niece and a grandson."²⁵ Deacon Guyon Perry died January 12, 1956 at age 83 and Eliza Perry died April 29, 1970 at age 95. Deacon Perry bequeathed a house and a portion of his land to each of his seven children."²⁶

The present owner of the Perry House, outbuildings and a surrounding ten-acre tract is Dr. Pennie E. Perry, Guyon and Eliza Perry's daughter. Dr. Perry is the retired director of North Carolina Central University's Library. Dr. Perry has earned a Bachelor's degree in biochemistry and Master's degrees in biochemistry and library science, as well as a Doctor of Philosophy degree in library science. She retired to the family farm after careers as a biochemist and as a library director. At North Carolina Central University, as Director of Library Services, she is credited with doubling the library's resources and the staff. She directed the design and construction of the new library building.

In an interview she said the some of her older siblings

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remembered Grandfather Feggins when he lived in a small house he had built across the road after he gained his freedom. Dr. Pennie Perry moved away from the family farm at an early age to attend the Method School in Raleigh. All of Guyon's children attended boarding school in Raleigh after they had finished a community primary school.

The ten acres Dr. Pennie Perry retains is part of the original acreage purchased by her father, Guyon Perry, in 1914. Her father always encouraged his children in their educational pursuits and in home ownership. Dr. Perry recalls that her mother had a beautiful, well-landscaped yard and that her father planted pear, apple, peach and plum trees. The big holly tree in the front yard was there in her father's lifetime, but has become hollow over the years. Dr. Perry has no children of her own, but a number of nearby grandnieces and grandnephews help her with the yard maintenance and house repairs. The house remains the family "headquarters" and the place family members are referring to when they mention "going up home." Every other year on New Year's Day, the local grandnieces and nephews gather at the Perry Farm for a reunion dinner. Both local and out-of-town relatives "from California to Rhode Island" gather at the farm annually during the fourth weekend in October for a family reunion.

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Footnotes

- ¹ Wake County, North Carolina Deed Book 12, p. 343. Deed recorded 1837.
- ² See Wake County Deed Books R, p. 278; U, p. 43; 3, pps. 351 and 392; 9, p. 41; 12, pp. 343, 408, 451; and 17, p. 44.
- ³ Wake County Marriage Bonds, 1805, Robert Redding, bondsman.
- ⁴ Wake County Deed Book DD, pps. 87-93.
- ⁵ Wake County Population Schedule 1850.
- ⁶ Wake County Agricultural Schedule 1860.
- ⁷ Will recorded in Wake County Deed Book DD, p. 87-93.
- ⁸ Wake County Population Schedule 1860.
- ⁹ Wake County Agricultural Schedule 1860.
- ¹⁰ Appraisal found in Wake County Deed Book 27, p. 228.
- ¹¹ Wake County Agricultural Schedule 1870.
- ¹² Wake County Population Schedule 1880 for town of Wake Forest.
- ¹³ Wake County Agricultural Schedule 1880.
- ¹⁴ Wake County Deed Book 67, p. 337.
- ¹⁵ Dr. Pennie E. Perry, "Perry-Jones Family," Wake County Heritage, entry #631. Wake County Geneological Society, 1983.
- ¹⁶ ibid.
- ¹⁷ Wake County Deed Book 283, p. 556.
- ¹⁸ Wake County Tax List of Little River Township for Negro Race, 1925.
- ¹⁹ Moses W. Williams and George W. Watkins, Who's Who Among North Carolina Negro Baptists, (privately printed, 1940), p.

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340. Also see Jeffrey J. Crow et al., A History of African Americans in North Carolina (Raleigh: North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, 1992), p. 29. Crow notes that, historically, the Baptist denomination has deep roots in the religious heritage of North Carolina's African-Americans. The Great Awakening of the 1730s and 1740s occasioned the first burst of religious enthusiasm that brought many slaves to Christianity. Both the Baptists and Methodists conducted services in a democratic atmosphere. Baptists did not go so far as to advocate the abolition of slavery, as did the Methodists, however they permitted slaves to participate fully in worship. Whereas both Anglicans and Presbyterians insisted on educated clergy, "Baptists accepted preachers--both black and white---who were moved by the spirit." To stabilize slave marriages, one Baptist church announced in 1778 that "marriage of servants before God was legitimate" despite the legal prohibitions of the time. After the Civil War, African Americans poured into Baptist churches. By the 1880s, the Baptist and AME Zion churches were the dominant sects, accounting for more than eighty per cent of all African American church members.

²⁰ *ibid.*

²¹ Dr. Pennie Perry, "The Guyon and Eliza Jones Perry Family," Wake County Heritage, entry # 633. Wake County Geneological Society, 1983.

²² Perry, *op.cit.*; also personal interview, November 3, 1993.

²³ Perry, personal interview, November 3, 1993.

²⁴ Perry, personal interview, April 7, 1994.

²⁵ Perry, "The Guyon and Eliza Jones Perry Family," *op. cit.*

²⁶ *ibid.* Graves located at Riley Hill Baptist Church. Perry interviews *op. cit.*

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Williams, Moses W. and George W. Watkins, Who's Who Among North Carolina Baptists. Privately printed: 1940.

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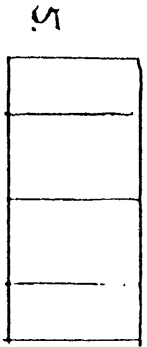
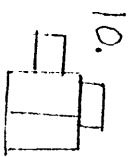
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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description: The boundary of the Perry Farm includes all of parcel 155 on Wake County Tax Map 418.

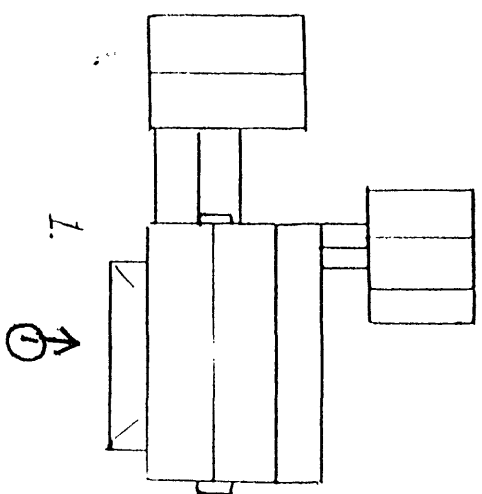
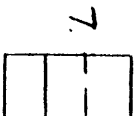
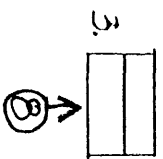
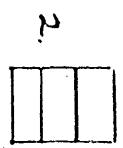
Boundary Justification: The boundary includes the ten-acre tract containing the Perry House, seven contributing farm outbuildings, and two non-contributing resources that have historically been part of the Perry Farm since c. 1820 through 1944, and which maintain their historical integrity. This ten-acre tract containing the historic resources is the core portion of a fifty three-acre tract purchased in 1914 by Guyon Perry. The remaining forty-three acres of that purchase have passed into the ownership of Guyon Perry's descendants and are used now primarily as residential home sites.



photograph # and vantage point

- 1. (C) Perry House
- 2. (C) Smokehouse
- 3. (NC) Utility bldg.
- 4. (C) Well house
- 5. (C) Frame barn
- 6. (C) Log barn
- 7. (C) Corn crib
- 8. (C) Garage
- 9. (C) Storage bldg.
- 10. (NC) Frame Tobacco Barn

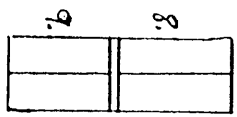
Not to scale



1.



driveway



9.

Edgemont Road (SR 2300)

Riley Hill Rd. (SR 2320)